

HIV / AIDS:

Cultural, Social, and Scientific Aspects of the Pandemic

Looking for an elective that matters?

Try a one-of-a-kind interdisciplinary course

The AIDS pandemic is a medical phenomenon and a complex of social, scientific, economic, and cultural challenges. AIDS focuses attention on sex, the body, and death. It calls into question preconceived notions and representations of sexuality and identity (sexual orientation, race, class, gender), individual and collective rights, and the role of science in modern life as well as its history and meanings. In addition, it exacerbates geopolitical inequities.

Much of this course is taught by community workers, guest professors, and other professionals focusing on HIV and AIDS within their own disciplines. Topics in 1997-98 will include the biology of the virus; therapeutic, clinical and epidemiological research developments; the social costs of sexual taboos and discrimination; the interface of sexual identity and illness in film, video and public art; and media and artistic representation by and of people with HIV. The epidemics in the Western Hemisphere, Africa, Asia, and other regions will also be addressed.

Students have the opportunity to do practical work within the community through an internship program. The internships integrate classroom learning with hands-on experience gained through volunteer work in a community or research organization.

Lectures are on Thursday evenings from 6:05-8:10 pm and are followed by small group tutorials. Co-instructors for 1997-98 are Dr. Fran Shaver and Dr. Brian Foss. Dr. Shaver, an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, is known for her field work among street prostitutes in San Francisco, Montreal, and Toronto. Dr. Foss, Associate Professor and Graduate Programme Director, Department of Art History, is a member of Concordia's Sexuality Research Project entitled "Sexualities, Representations and Marginalities." Both will discuss their work in the context of the course and the AIDS pandemic.

"HIV/AIDS: Cultural, Social, and Scientific Aspects of the Pandemic" is cross-listed in four academic units (no prerequisite):

Faculty of Fine Arts FFAR 399G/3

Faculty of Arts and Science INTE 399A/3

Department of Communication Studies COMS 399A/3

Department of Sociology and Anthropology SOCI 399H/3

Fine Arts students are encouraged to develop creative term projects within their artistic discipline, as well as community internships reflecting their individual fine arts orientation.

The course is open to all individuals within the university and the surrounding community. Further information may be obtained from Dr. Shaver (848-2168), Dr. Foss (848-4704), or Dr. Tom Waugh (chair, HIV Academic Sub-committee 848-4654 or -4234).

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